

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 6, 15 and 19 to 21 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 15 and 17 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 19 to 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 7,194,696 (Mori) in view of U.S. 2003/0094108 (Shiki). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori as modified by the features of Shiki, in further view of U.S. 6,842,262 (Gillihan). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori, as modified by the features of Shiki as applied to Claims 1 and 8 above, and in further view of U.S. 6,621,590 (Livingston). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns converting original data into print data processible by a printing apparatus and more specifically concerns management of front and back surfaces of a printed sheet. In one aspect of the invention, the size of a first printable region identified by a basic attribute is compared with a size of a second printable region identified by a back-side attribute and the size of the first printable region to sent to an application when it is determined that the first printable region is bigger than the size of the second printable region; however, the second printable region is sent to the application when it is determined that the second printable region is bigger than the size of the first printable region. Then print data is generated by the application based on the basic attribute, the back-side attribute and the original data generated based on the sent size. This avoids the problem that, if the printer driver receives data of a narrow range from the application, the printer driver cannot convert the data into print data of a wide range unless it performs processing not complying with the original purpose of

enlargement processing. If, however, the printer driver receives data of a wide range, the printer can easily convert the data into print data of a narrow range by masking.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method of converting original data into print data processible by a printing apparatus. The method includes: displaying a first setting screen to set a basic attribute to be applied to whole print data and a second setting screen to set a back-side attribute to be applied to a plurality of pages which correspond to not the front sides of printing media but to the back sides of the printing media output in the double-sided printing; comparing a size of a first printable region identified by the basic attribute received via the first setting screen with a size of a second printable region identified by the back-side attribute received via the second setting screen; sending the size of the first printable region to an application when it is determined in the comparing step that the first printable region is bigger than the size of the second printable region; sending the size of the second printable region to the application when it is determined in the comparing step that the second printable region is bigger than the size of the first printable region; and generating the print data based on the basic attribute, the back-side attribute and the original data generated based on the sent size.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied references, namely Mori and Shiki, whether considered alone or in combination, are not seen to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent Claim 1. In particular, Mori and Shiki in any permissible combination are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of comparing a size of a first printable region identified by the basic attribute received via the first setting screen with a size of a second printable region identified by the back-side attribute received via the second setting screen, sending the size of the first printable region to an application when it is determined in the

comparing step that the first printable region is bigger than the size of the second printable region, sending the size of the second printable region to the application when it is determined in the comparing step that the second printable region is bigger than the size of the first printable region and generating the print data based on the basic attribute, the back-side attribute and the original data generated based on the sent size.

In contrast to the present claims, Mori discloses displaying setting screens for an entire document, chapters and pages, and setting print attributes using the displayed setting screens. Specifically, Mori discloses a chapter setting window in Fig. 15 and a page setting window in Fig. 17.

In regard to Fig. 15 of Mori, a print attribute (e.g., paper size, page layout and zoom for area) may be set via the chapter setting window as shown. This set attribute is applied to all pages contained in selected chapters. For example, referring Fig. 20C, when the chapter setting window for chapter “Chap A” is displayed, the print attribute set in the displayed chapter setting window is applied to pages 1-1 to 1-8 that are all pages in the chapter “Chap A.”

In regard to Fig. 17 of Mori, a page setting window as shown in Fig. 17 is provided for setting a print attribute to be applied to selected pages. For example, when a user depresses the OK button in the page setting window shown in Fig. 17, the print attribute set in the page setting window is applied to only the currently selected pages. If the user wishes to apply the print attribute set in the page setting window to pages imposed on back sides of sheets, the user must select all the pages imposed on back sides with reference to, for example, page images displayed in a preview screen regardless of how many pages are contained. In this way, the user must input the number of instructions to designate pages corresponding to the number of pages to which the print attribute is applied.

Furthermore, Shiki is concerned with color and discloses color setting screens for front and rear sides in the double-sided printing. However, Applicant has reviewed Shiki and submits Shiki is entirely silent regarding the size of print areas. Therefore, even if Mori and Shiki are combined as suggested in the Office Action, which Applicant does not concede is permissible, the resultant combination would still fail to disclose or suggest comparing a size of a first printable region identified by the basic attribute received via the first setting screen with a size of a second printable region identified by the back-side attribute received via the second setting screen, sending the size of the first printable region to an application when it is determined in the comparing step that the first printable region is bigger than the size of the second printable region, sending the size of the second printable region to the application when it is determined in the comparing step that the second printable region is bigger than the size of the first printable region and generating the print data based on the basic attribute, the back-side attribute and the original data generated based on the sent size as featured in the present claims.

In light of these deficiencies of Mori and Shiki, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 15 is directed to a printing control apparatus which converts original data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 15 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 16 is directed to a printing control apparatus which converts input drawing data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 16 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 17 is directed to a computer-readable medium storing a computer program for recording a program for converting original data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 17 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 18 is directed to a computer-readable medium storing a computer program for converting input drawing data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 18 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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